

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LIMA 05892 132326Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SIL-01 LAB-04

CU-02 /086 W

-----043389 132339Z /65

P 132208Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5697

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 5892

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ELAB, SHUM, PE

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON POLITICAL DISTURBANCES

REF: LIMA 5840

SUMMARY. FIRSTHAND REPORT OF SITUATION IN HUANCAYO
(REFTEL DESCRIBES STUDENT AND WORKER VIOLENCE AS "DEFINITELY
ORGANIZED". DISTURBANCES REPORTED IN TRUJILLO IN NORTHERN
PERU. PRESIDENT CANCELS TRIP TO PIURA, APPARENTLY IN RESPONSE
TO SPREADING DISORDER OUTSIDE OF LIMA. BISHOPS DENOUNCE
GOP "REPRESSION". END SUMMARY.

1. AN AMERICAN PROFESSOR FROM HUANCAYO TALKED JULY 13
WITH EMBOFF COCERNING EVENTS IN THAT CITY THE PAST FEW DAYS.
VIOLENCE ERUPTED JULY 11 AS PART OF A STRIKE BY TEACHERS
AND TRANSPORTATION WORKERS. GOVERNMENT OFFICES WERE
ATTACKED BY STONE-THROWING STUDENTS AND ALL TRANSPORTATION
CAME TO A HALT WITHIN CITY DUE TO FIRES, BARRICADES
AND STUDENT MOBS. SOME WORKER PARTICIPATION
WAS OBSERVED BUT MOST INVOLVED CLASHES BETWEEN STUDENTS AND
POLICE. CURFEW IS IN EFFECT FROM 5 P.M. TO 6 A.M. BUT IS NOT
OBSERVED UNTIL AFTER DARK. THE PROFESSOR WITNESSED THE ARREST
OF 50-100 STUDENTS OVER TWO DAYS, BUT COULD NOT CONFIRM RUMORS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LIMA 05892 132326Z

OF EVEN GREATER VIOLENCE, INCLUDING DEATHS, IN OUTSKIRTS OF
CITY. HOWEVER, PILES OF STONES PLACED TO IMPEDE TRAFFIC
WERE ENCOUNTERED THE VENING OF JULY 12 FOR 30 MILES OUTSIDE
OF HUANCAYO ON THE MAIN ROAD TO LIMA. NO DISTURBANCES WERE
OBSERVED IN LA OROYA, A MAJOR MINING CENTER BETWEEN HUANCAYO AND
LIMA. THE PROFESSOR, WHO HAS MANY CONTACTS AMONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

,

TOLD EMBOFF THAT HER IMPRESSION OF THE OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE WAS THAT IT WAS "DEFINITELY ORGANIZED IN ADVANCE". SHE SAID NO VIOLENCE SEEMED TO BE DIRECTED TOWARD TOURISTS BUT RATHER TOWARD THE GOVERNMENT AND THE POLICE.

2. OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE FROM HUANCAYO PUBLISHED IN JULY 13, DAILIES INDICATE TWO DEATHS AND 14 INJURED. ALL BANKS, COMMERCIAL OUTLETS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, AND SCHOOLS HAVE CEASED OPERATION. TRAIN SERVICE BETWEEN LIMA AND HUANCAYO IS SUSPENDED AND POLICE AND ARMY UNITS ARE PATROLLING THE STREETS. THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT THE VIOLENCE BEGAN OVER SPONTANEOUS PROTESTS BECAUSE OF FOOD SHORTAGES. THIS IS CLEARLY FALSE SINCE NOTICES OF JULY 11 STRIKE WERE CIRCULATING AS EARLY AS JULY 8.

3. TODAY'S NEWSPAPERS ALSO REPORTED INJURIES AND DETENTIONS FOLLOWING DISTURBANCES IN TRUJILLO ON THE NORTHER COAST OF PERU. AT NOON TODAY THE BI-NATIONAL CENTER DIRECTOR IN TRUJILLO TOLD EMBASSY THAT THERE ARE AS MANY AS TWO DEAD AND THIRTY INJURED AS A RESULT OF YESTERDAY'S VIOLENCE. NO CURFEW HAS BEEN IMPOSED YET BUT THE SITUATION REMAINS "TENSE". VIOLENCE REPORTEDLY BEGAN IN THE "PUEBLOS JOVENES" (SLUMS) AND THEN SPREAD TO THE CENTER OF THE CITY LATER IN THE DAY.

4. PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ HAD PLANNED TO VISIT PIURA, A CITY TO THE NORTH OF TRUJILLO, JULY 13
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LIMA 05892 132326Z

BUT THIS TRIP WAS CANCELLED LATER JULY 12 ALLEGEDLY "TO GIVE MAXIMUM PRIORITY TO THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS" FACING THE COUNTRY, BUT MORE PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE DISTURBANCES IN TRUJILLO AND HUANCAYO. THIS MORNING PRICE ROLLBACKS WERE ANNOUNCED FOR BREAD AND PASTA, TWO STAPLES OF POORER PERUVIANS. THE RECENT INCREASE IN FOOD PRICES HAVE BEEN PROMINENTLY DEPLORED BY ANTI-GOVERNMENT POLITICAL AND LABOR LEADERS.

5. IN A PASTORAL LETTER TO BE READ IN ALL CHURCHES OF THEIR DIOCESES, THE ARCHBISHOP OF CUZCO AND THE BISHOPS OF SICUANI, AYAVIRI, PUNO AND JULI HAVE DENOUNCED "REPRESSION" BY THE GOP DURING RECENT DISTURBANCES IN THE SOUTH OF PERU AND THE RESULTING DEATHS, INJURIES, DETENTIONS AND DISAPPEARANCES OF PROTESTORS. THE LETTER, DATED JULY 10, DENOUNCES THE GOP FOR USING VIOLENCE TO "INTIMIDATE" THE MASSES FOR AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM THAT "DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE INTERESTS OF THE MAJORITY", AND FOR THE "FACT THAT A PRIVILEGED MINORITY HAS PLACED THE BURDEN OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS ON THE SHOULDER OF THE MASSES." THE BISHOPS DEMAND CESSATION OF ALL GOVERNMENT REPRESSION, INFORMATION ON THE DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES OF CITIZENS, AND FREEDOM FOR PERSONS

PRESENTLY DETAINED BY AUTHORITIES.

6. REPORTS FROM AREQUIPA INDICATE THE CITY IS CALM BUT THAT A ONE-DAY TEACHER'S STRIKE IS PLANNED FOR NEXT MONTH. AREQUIPA DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE RECENT JULY 5 STRIKE OF TEACHERS BECAUSE CLASSES WERE NOT IN SESSION AT THAT TIME. EMBOFF WAS RECENTLY INFORMED BY AMERICAN PRIEST WHO WORKS IN LIMA'S SLUMS THAT OVER 200 TEACHERS WERE DETAINED IN CONNECTIO WITH THE JULY 5 STRIKE IN THE SOUTHERN SECTION OF LIMA.

7. COMMENT: THE SPREAD OF VIOLENCE BY STUDENTS AND WORKERS FROM SOUTHERN CITIES SUCH AS TACNA, AREQUIPA, PUNO AND CUZCO, TO THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS (HUANCAYO) AND THE NORTH (TRUJILLO)
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LIMA 05892 132326Z

WILL UNDOUBTEDLY INCREASE GOP PARANOIA THAT ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE ORGANIZED AND CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATING DISTURBANCES AND PROTESTS. EMBOFF TALKED WITH A LABOR MINISTRY OFFICIAL YESTERDAY WHO DESCRIBED THE PROTESTS AS CLEARLY THE WORK OF COMMUNIST AGITATORS. RECENT STRIKES IN TOQUEPALA AND ILLO IN THE VITAL MINING CENTERS BY FAR-LEFT UNIONS ARE AMPLE PROF TO MANY GOP OFFICIALS OF THIS THESIS. MOST DISTURBANCES HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN AS A RESULT OF PROTEST AGAINST THE GOP'S NEW AUSTERITY PROGRAM, BUT IT NOW SEEMS CLEAR THAT A GREAT DEAL OF PENT-UP ANTI-GOVERNMENT FEELING AMONG LABOR AND STUDENTS IS AN ADDITIONAL FACTOR FUELING THE VIOLENCE.

SHLAUDEMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL DISORDERS, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, LABOR DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LIMA05892
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770249-1277
Format: TEL
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770763/aaaaccja.tel
Line Count: 150
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 49fa576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LIMA 5840
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1879772
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UPDATE ON POLITICAL DISTURBANCES
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ELAB, SHUM, PE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/49fa576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009